

Rendez-Vous

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Coordinator's Report

By Jennifer Sloom

I write this report from Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria, where I am working with ACIC's partner organization, NGO Coalition for Environment. I know that Atlantic Canada is slowly digging itself out of the snow, looking forward to the promise of spring, but since the temperatures are reaching upwards of 35 degrees Celsius on a daily basis here, the thought of snowstorms happening back home seem an attractive alternative!

ACIC's Board of Directors

ACIC's Board of Directors continues to hold regular meetings by conference call; our most recent call focussed on the upcoming AGM, and discussions of outstanding proposals and ongoing projects.

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Our working groups are going full speed in preparation for the AGM in May; the Policy Working Group has been active in developing a Privacy Policy statement for ACIC.

The Financial Working Group has been reviewing ACIC's financial Audit, which was completed at the end of February. The Membership Working Group has been busy reviewing membership criteria, and will have some by-laws for review to all members prior to the AGM. We are very excited to be proposing some changes in ACIC's membership criteria, and looking forward to discussions about this at our AGM.

ACIC Staff

We have been privileged to welcome Marcelle Thibodeau as ACIC's newest staff member. Many of you will remember Marcelle from her previous post of Agente de Liaison in 2002. Marcelle has been working as ACIC's acting Coordinator while I

Rapport de la Coordinatrice

Par Jennifer Sloom

Je rédige ce rapport à Calabar, dans l'état de Cross River, au Nigéria, où je travaille avec l'organisme partenaire du CACI, soit la « NGO Coalition for the Environment ». Je sais que le Canada Atlantique est en train de se sortir d'une abondante chute de neige et a bien hâte au printemps, mais étant donné que les températures ici atteignent les 35 degrés Celsius à chaque jour, les tempêtes de neige de chez-nous me semblent une alternative attrayante !

Bureau de direction (BD) du CACI

Le BD du CACI continue ses assemblées régulières par téléconférences ; la plus récente était axée sur la prochaine AGA et sur la discussion de demandes en attente et des projets en cours.

Nos groupes de travail font pleine vapeur en voie de préparation pour l'AGA en mai ; le Groupe de travail sur les politiques a été actif dans la formulation d'un Énoncé de politique de confidentialité pour le CACI. Le Groupe de travail sur les finances fait l'examen de la vérification comptable du CACI qui fut complétée à la fin de février. Le Groupe de travail sur les adhésions fait l'examen des critères d'adhésion et nous aurons des règlements à réviser par tous les membres avant l'AGA. Nous sommes très heureux de proposer certaines modifications aux critères d'adhésion au CACI et nous avons hâte d'en discuter lors de notre AGA.

Personnel du CACI

Nous avons le privilège de souhaiter la bienvenue à Marcelle Thibodeau, la plus récente addition au personnel du CACI. Plusieurs d'entre vous connaissez déjà Marcelle à cause de son ancien poste d'Agente de Liaison en 2002. Marcelle travaille en tant Coordinatrice intérimaire du CACI pendant que je suis au Nigéria. Donc, bienvenue et merci à Marcelle pour avoir assumé ce rôle !

Jessica Dubelaar, stagiaire du CACI dans le cadre du Programme de jeunes stagiaires internationaux de l'ACDI, va revenir du Nigéria le 1er avril et elle va passer six autres semaines à travailler dans notre bureau de Knowlesville. J'ai eu l'occasion d'observer Jessica en action ici et elle a fait un travail merveilleux. Elle est devenue une partie intégrale du bureau de NGOCE et je ne suis pas convaincue que l'on pourra l'en sortir. Heureusement, mon départ pour le Canada est prévu pour la journée après le vol prévu pour Jessica et je pourrai m'assurer qu'elle a bien pris l'avion !



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publication are not necessarily those of
ACIC or its members.

have been in Nigeria. A huge welcome and thank you to Marcelle for taking on this role!

Jessica Dubelaar, ACIC's CIDA International Youth Internship Program Intern, will be returning from Nigeria on April 1st, and will spend another six weeks working at our office in Knowlesville. I have had the opportunity to view Jessica here in action, and she has done a wonderful job. She has become a fixture at NGOCE's office, and I'm not sure we'll be able to drag her away. Luckily I have arranged so that I return to Canada one day after Jessica is scheduled to fly home, so that I will be able to ensure that she gets on the plane!

ACIC's Annual General Meeting May 7-9th

We formally invite all members to our Annual General Meeting and Symposium near Truro, in Debert, Nova Scotia from May 7- May 9, 2004. This event will be held at the Debert Hospitality Centre and will incorporate professional development workshops and give members a chance to network and participate in workshops such as: international youth internships, coalition building, Social Auditing, Appreciative Inquiry, and the Privacy Act and how it affects non-profit organizations. We look forward to your participation. Please see our website (www.acic-caci.org) for details about how to register and for more information about the event.

Energy/Waste/Water Management Project

There has been strong interest by many

Assemblée générale annuelle du CACI du 7-9 mai

Nous invitons formellement tous les membres à notre Assemblée générale annuelle et Symposium près de Truro, à Debert, en Nouvelle-Écosse, du 7 au 9 mai, 2004. La rencontre aura lieu au Debert Hospitality Centre et va inclure des ateliers de perfectionnement professionnel, en plus de donner aux membres l'occasion de réseauter et de participer dans des ateliers tels que : jeunes stagiaires internationaux, établissement de coalitions, audit social, enquête satisfaisante, ainsi que la Loi sur la confidentialité et sur comment elle affecte les organisations à but non lucratif. Nous anticipons une bonne participation. Veuillez visiter notre site Web (www.acic-caci.org) pour plus de détails sur comment s'inscrire et plus de renseignements sur cet événement.

Projet de gestion énergie/déchets/eau

Plusieurs membres ont montré un grand intérêt en matière de conscientisation environnementale et sur des moyens que les organisations peuvent agir sur le plan local afin d'avoir un impact sur les ramifications du changement climatique mondial et la gestion des ressources naturelles. En guise de réponse, le CACI a soumis une demande à ÉcoAction (une section d'Environnement Canada) pour travailler avec les organisations membres pour trouver des moyens d'utiliser l'énergie et l'eau de manières plus efficaces, ainsi que pour diminuer le montant de déchets qui est produit. Un vérificateur va travailler avec les organisations participantes pour examiner l'utilisation de l'énergie, de l'eau et la production des déchets, et trouver des moyens pour améliorer l'efficacité de leur usage.

Les résultats du processus de financement sera confirmé dans les mois à venir.

Projet d'inventaire des capacités des membres

Nous avons presque complété la Phase I du Projet d'inventaire des capacités. Les profils sur les membres continuent à arriver et à mesure que s'accroît le nombre de nos membres, nous continuons la mise à jour et à ajouter les nouveaux profils. Si vous n'avez pas soumis votre profil, veuillez le faire aussitôt que possible.

Le résultat de ce projet sera un sommaire complet des capacités et des ressources disponibles parmi nos membres, ce qui sera accessible aux bailleurs de fonds, ainsi qu'aux sources privées et publiques.

**ACIC Board of Directors
Conseil d'Administration du CACI**

- Carolyn Davison, Chair and NS Representative (Nova Scotia Gambia Association)
- Beverly Rose, Secretary and Newfoundland-Labrador Representative (Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Cooperatives)
- Leona Arsenault, Treasurer, Francophone Representative and Member-at-Large (PEI Environmental Network)
- Jean Arnold, NB Representative (Falls Brook Centre)
- Maureen MacLean, Member-at-Large (Canadian Cooperative Association)
- Marian White, PEI Representative (CUSO)
- Jennifer Sloat, Coordinator

of our members in environmental awareness and ways that organizations can take action locally to impact the ramifications of global climate change and natural resource management. In response, ACIC has submitted a proposal to EcoAction (part of Environment Canada) to work with member organizations to find ways to use energy and water more efficiently, and to decrease the amount of waste that is produced. An auditor will work with participating organizations to look at the use of energy, water and the production of waste, and to find ways to improve their efficient use.

The results of the funding process will be confirmed in the coming months

Membership Skills Inventory Project

We have almost finished completing Stage I of the Skills Inventory Project. Membership profiles continue to filter in, and as our membership base increases, we continue to update and add profiles. If you have not submitted your profile, please do so as soon as possible.

The result of this project will be a comprehensive summary of the skills and resources available from our membership, which will be accessible to funders, and both private and public sources.

CIVICUS World Assembly

ACIC, in partnership with NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE) has been selected to present a workshop at the upcoming CIVICUS World Assembly, being held in Gaborone, Botswana from March 21 – March 25, 2004. This year's theme is "Acting Together for a Just World". Jennifer Slood and Chief Bassey Archibong will travel to Botswana to present their workshop entitled "Developing Strategies for Sustainable Communities – Building Coalitions to Enhance Community Capacity". This workshop will engage participants in discussion around building coalitions of equality to effectively influence public policy, and impact decision-making at all levels. NGOCE and ACIC have been able to explore and share experiences of coalitions in Nigeria and Canada, and will share some of their lesson learnt.

This event will involve participants from around the world, including international, national and grassroots organizations. Keynote speakers include: Mary Robinson, former High Commissioner of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, and Festus Mogae, the president of Botswana. More information about this event will be available in our next edition of Rendez-Vous.

ACIC's Partnership with NGOCE

ACIC continues to work with the NGO Coalition for the Environment (NGOCE), a group based in Calabar, Nigeria, as part of a consortium of Canadian and Nigerian organizations. As mentioned above, I am currently in Nigeria working with NGOCE and its staff. This work has included preparation and implementation of a workshop in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, development of a workshop on best practices in Policy Development in Eco-tourism, and work on an additional workshop in Coalition-Building. Other projects include the development of a communications plan for NGOCE, and meetings with its member organizations.

If you would like further information on any of the items listed above, please do not hesitate to contact me. And I look forward to meeting you all at the Annual General Meeting!

Assemblée mondiale CIVICUS

Le CACI, en partenariat avec la « NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE) » a été choisi pour présenter un atelier lors de l'Assemblée mondiale CIVICUS, qui aura lieu à Gaborone, Botswana, du 21 au 25 mars, 2004. Le thème pour cette année : « Agir ensemble pour un monde juste ». Jennifer Slood et Chief Bassey Archibong vont se rendre au Botswana pour présenter leur atelier « Développement de stratégies pour communautés durables – Bâtir des coalitions pour renforcer la capacité des communautés ».

Cet atelier va amener les participants à discuter l'établissement de coalitions d'égalité pour mieux influencer les politiques publiques et influencer le processus décisionnel à tous les niveaux. La NGOCE et le CACI ont été en mesure d'explorer et de partager des expériences de coalitions au Nigéria et au Canada ; ils vont y partager certaines des leçons apprises.

Cet événement va impliquer des participants à travers le monde, y compris des organisations internationales, nationales et de la base. Parmi les conférenciers invités : Mary Robinson, l'ancienne haute-commissaire du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme ; Festus Mogae, le président du Botswana. Plus d'information sur cet événement sera disponible dans notre prochain numéro de Rendez-Vous.

Partenariat du CACI avec NGOCE

Le CACI continue à travailler avec la « NGO Coalition for the Environment » (NGOCE), un groupe basé à Calabar, au Nigéria, dans le cadre d'un consortium d'organismes canadiens et nigériens. Tel que mentionné ci-haut, je suis présentement au Nigéria à travailler avec NGOCE et son personnel. Ce travail comprend la préparation et la mise en oeuvre d'un atelier sur la surveillance et l'évaluation participatives, la préparation d'un atelier sur les pratiques exemplaires en matière de formulation de politiques sur l'écotourisme, en plus de travailler sur un atelier additionnel portant sur la mise sur pied de coalitions. D'autres projets comprennent la mise au point d'un plan de communications pour NGOCE, ainsi que des rencontres avec ses organisations membres.

Si vous aimeriez en savoir plus sur aucun des points mentionnés ci-haut, n'hésitez surtout pas à communiquer avec moi. Et j'espère bien vous rencontrer tous lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle !



Chile's Street Kids Circus

By Nicola Ross

International bigtop phenomenon Cirque du Soleil of Montreal teaches the art of the circus – and of life – to street kids in Chile.

At one time or another, most children think about running away from home. One classic destination for these wayward dreams is the circus. The more adventurous may even fantasize about finding fame and glory under the bigtop. But Canada's internationally acclaimed Cirque du Soleil has launched a circus for street kids in Chile that offers a different reward amongst the clowns and trapeze artists.

Chile's Circo del Mundo (Circus of the World), a project of the Quebec-based phenomenon, lets Soleil's performers "share the challenge and magic of circus arts with young people in difficult circumstances, especially those who live in the street." The hope is to give troubled youth confidence and raise their image in the eyes of elders.

Cirque du Soleil instructors are teamed with social workers. Together they interact with youth at risk, many of whom are difficult to reach through conventional means. Circo del Mundo's program is based on the belief that "circus arts give youth at risk a chance to blossom, to express themselves and to use their fringe status as a basis for forging new links into a society which has often rejected them."

After 17 years of rule under dictator General Augusto Pinochet, ending in 1990, this nation of 15-million has emerged as Latin America's economic powerhouse. Chile boasts soaring glass skyscrapers and the other trappings that many equate with success: upscale restaurants, big-screen television sets and personal-use automobiles.

But 20 percent of the population still live below the poverty line. Family violence is a concern and, like their counterparts throughout the world, disadvantaged youths struggle with drugs and alcohol, and the tendency to drop out of school.

Circo del Mundo assists some 500 youths each year. Most of them come from Santiago, the nation's sprawling capital that is home to a third of all Chileans. Circo del Mundo uses circus arts as a tool to help frustrated teenagers improve their self-esteem, develop social skills and gain a sense of humour.

Teaming up with a variety of municipal and state social agencies including Chile's drug prevention agency, pairs

of instructors work with youths once or twice a week for eight to ten months. The teaching duo consists of a circus arts performer and a social worker. During the three hour-long sessions, youth ranging in age from early teens to early twenties are taught to juggle and do acrobatics. Some also learn the art of being a clown.

Twenty-three-year-old Rodrigo Oyaczún Rivera spends every weekday learning the ropes, so to speak. From 10 am until 7:30 pm he takes classes in the trapeze and acrobatics as well as receiving lessons in social issues. Oyaczún would like to become a professional circus artist.



Another student, 20-year-old Daniela Oyanedel Alarcón, cherishes the opportunity to pass along her knowledge of "the magical world of circus," while 15-year-old Marcelo Ibacache Guebba says his goal is to "travel so he can learn more than he already knows."

The opportunity to visit other lands is a benefit that Circo del Mundo Executive Director Bartolomé Silva Llanos believes is especially valuable. Last year, five of the youths involved in his program spent two months in Australia. Upon their return, Silva noticed, "they were very different, stronger and more professional."

Possibly they were more like the Cirque du Soleil's founders. In the early 1980s, a few young street performers in Montreal believed in themselves as well. Today, Cirque du Soleil and its unique form of circus spectacle employs 2,500 people, over 500 of whom are artists. The company has nine shows on the go with permanent theatres in Florida and Las Vegas. Since 1984, Cirque du Soleil has staged more than 240 performances in 90 cities before 40 million spectators.

(continued on page 8...)

MEMBER PROFILE

CAUSE CANADA

Founded in 1984, CAUSE Canada (CAUSE) is an international relief and development agency committed to supporting sustainable development projects in geographical areas underrepresented by the international aid community. CAUSE strives to empower communities and individuals in disadvantaged regions to overcome poverty. Programs aim to build dignity and decrease dependency. To optimize CAUSE's resources, assistance is focused in West Africa and Central America, especially Guatemala, Honduras, Sierra Leone, Mali and the Ivory Coast. CAUSE is also active in Canada. Through the use of the creative arts, media, national tours and documentary film, CAUSE informs the Canadian general public about poverty issues and engages them in possible solutions.

Development priorities:

Primary healthcare, water and sanitation, reforestation, gender-specific development and micro-enterprise projects. CAUSE is committed to the challenge of assisting our Southern partners in the establishment and strengthening of their own Community-based Organizations.



A child displaced by war in Sierra Leone

Key Strategies:

- Participation builds community self-reliance
Partnering with communities means that participants are required to contribute their skills, local materials and labour. Both the ownership and the responsibility for successful results rest squarely with the community itself.
- Empowerment helps combat poverty
CAUSE builds self-confidence through self-reliance. Men and women are encouraged to take greater control over their lives by gaining new skills through education, literacy and vocational training. CAUSE promotes savings programs and provides micro-credit loans for small business development.
- Collaboration increases program impact
CAUSE collaborates with partner organizations overseas and in Canada in order to maximize the positive impacts for communities and to avoid the duplication of programs.

Mission Statement:

CAUSE seeks to alleviate poverty and injustice through long-term partnerships that empower communities within the Developing World to improve their quality of life.

Definition of Development:

To develop is to become, not only to have. It is the unfolding of a people's collective imagination in defining not only who they are but where they want to go.

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The International Department of the YMCA of Fredericton is soliciting nominations for the 2004 Peace Medallion

The Peace Medallion originated in Fredericton in 1987 and is now used by YMCAs across the country--

To recognize the achievement of individuals or groups in local communities who--without any special resources--demonstrate in their lives and activities the values expressed in the World Alliance of YMCAs' 1981 Statement on Peace, which states (in part):

"Peace has many dimensions. It is not only a state of relationships among nations. We cannot expect to live in a world of peace if we are unable to live in peace with those close to us--even those who differ from us. . . . The responsibility for peace begins with each person, in relationship with family and friends, and extends to community life and national activities. . . ."

Medallion originator, Rick McDaniel of the Fredericton YMCA, says: "We all know of individuals who make a special effort to improve the lives of the people around them, individuals who seldom expect any recognition for their efforts. These are exactly the type of individuals the Peace Medallion is intended to celebrate."

Previous Fredericton Peace Medallion recipients include Karl McLelland (2003) for his work with Habitat for Humanity, Judy Coats (2000) for her work with Children's International Summer Villages, and Valerie Drury (1995) for her work with UNICEF.

Persons who know of an individual or an organization they feel should be considered as a potential recipient for this year's medallion are encouraged to contact the International Department of the YMCA for a nomination form. The department can be reached at 506-462-3084.



LE RECRUTEMENT EN 2003 : UNE RÉUSSITE

En novembre 2003, le nombre de volontaires de MSF-Canada sur le terrain se chiffrait à 137, surpassant le nombre total pour 2002 qui, en fin d'année, était de 116. Bien que cette augmentation excède de beaucoup les chiffres prévus, la hausse peut être attribuée au nombre croissant d'urgences enregistrées partout dans le monde. Le Moyen-Orient et l'Afrique sont les régions où la plupart des volontaires canadiens sont envoyés; des endroits touchés par des urgences graves comme la crise en Irak et des urgences chroniques comme la famine en Éthiopie. Nos volontaires sont souvent bilingues et capables de se rendre sur le terrain rapidement. Plusieurs sont affectés à des postes de gestion sur le terrain et ceux qui parlent français sont en demande surtout en Afrique de l'Ouest et en Afrique centrale : République démocratique du Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi et Congo-Brazzaville.

MSF-Canada a transformé sa structure; le service des Ressources humaines a été réorganisé et les efforts sont concentrés sur le recrutement d'un bout à l'autre du pays. Le nombre de volontaires en mission pour la première fois a augmenté; ils proviennent de tout le Canada, notamment de l'Ouest, du Centre et du Québec, en nombres égaux. Grâce à ses activités au sein de la communauté médicale – écoles de médecine, conférences professionnelles – MSF recrute plus de médecins. Le recrutement paramédical de techniciens de laboratoire, de sages-femmes et d'infirmières se poursuit mais il y a un besoin urgent de médecins spécialistes du VIH, de la tuberculose et des maladies infectieuses. De plus, il faut recruter des spécialistes en santé mentale pour traiter les personnes touchées par la guerre, victimes d'actes violents et d'abus.

Par Reshmi Kutty. Premièrement publié dans Dépêches, Janvier 2004

Fair Trade in Aid of Afghan Women

In a campaign starting on International Women's Day, March 8th, fair trade sales are helping women artisans around the world and women in war torn Afghanistan.

From International Women's Day (March 8) to International Fair Trade Day (May 8), Peri Dar is donating 10% of its sales to CARE Canada in support of a project providing education for teenage girls and young women in Afghanistan. This campaign is also supporting women, their children and their communities in 14 countries in the developing world.

While employment opportunities are very limited for women in developing countries, the majority of participants in artisan cooperatives are women. Their fine artisan skills are often the result of generations of knowledge handed down from mother to daughter, and have made important contributions to their community's cultural identity and pride. Fair trade is an alternative and ethical form of trade where artisans and workers are paid a fair and living wage, and where production embraces sustainable environmental practices. In fair trade artisan cooperatives, a portion of the earnings is dedicated to community needs, such as health services, education for children, and growing a communal garden.

To support them in their economic struggle and in appreciation for their skill and contribution to culture and community, over 80% of Peri Dar's products are made by women. Through this partnership between CARE Canada and Peri Dar, women caught in the current crisis situation in Afghanistan will also benefit from fair trade exchanges.

Afghan women have a rich history of talent and artistic influence in Asia and the Mediterranean, and fair trade exchanges can make a real difference for Afghan women artisans and their communities in the future. Today, they are the victims of years of war and conflict. Women now account for 70% of Afghanistan's current population; they have been banned from jobs and school for years and have several children to feed. To rebuild communities in Afghanistan, education for Afghan women and girls is critical.

CARE's Out of School Girls Project is working with Afghan teenage girls to compensate for lost schooling time and to integrate them into the regular public education system at an appropriate level compatible to their age, social, emotional and cognitive development. Operational support and school materials have already reached nine learning centres both in Kabul and Parwan where 2,243 girl students are getting grade one to six education. New students are being admitted, and at least 108 female teachers are receiving on the job and refresher training.

The campaign will last until May 8th, International Fair Trade Day. Individuals can support CARE's education project and fair trade artisan women online at www.peridar.com, or by calling Peri Dar at (819) 456-4724. Donations can also be made directly to CARE Canada online at www.care.ca or by phone at 1.800.267.5232, with mention of the Accelerated Basic Education for Out-of-School Girls Project, Afghanistan.

For more information, contact Nicole McGrath,
Peri Dar Inc, PO Box 126 La Pêche
QC, J0X 2W0,
(819) 456-4724, fax (819) 456-2111.
Peri Dar is a member of the Fair Trade Federation



Credit Union Coaches are on the Ground in Ghana

Eric Smith, Carleton Pioneer Credit Union in Woodstock, NB and Perry MacPherson of Capital Credit Union in Fredericton, NB are among eight Canadian credit union professionals who were in Ghana in late January to provide technical assistance to primary credit unions. Their two-week mission is part of the Canadian Co-operative Association's inaugural Credit Union Coaching Program through which the three men and five women share their knowledge and skills with counterparts in eight Ghanaian credit unions located in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, and Ho. The program, co-ordinated through the Credit Union Association of Ghana, is also an opportunity for Canadians to learn about the process of building community financial institutions in developing countries.

The participants returned to Canada on January 31. Besides Smith and MacPherson, other participants include Janette Begley, Labatt Employees Credit Union (ON); Shauna Appleyard, Winnipeg Police Credit Union (MB); Joan Baer, Goodsoil Credit Union (SK); Colin Markusson, Raymore Credit Union (SK); Debbie Bishop, Border Credit Union (AB); Valerie Gauvin, Terrace & District Credit Union (BC). John Julian from CCA Ottawa accompanied the group.

Chile's Street Kids Circus continued....

And the magicians behind the Montreal circus could easily expand its Circo del Mundo initiative too. "There is so much demand that if we wanted we could develop Cirque du Monde programs all over the world," enthuses Manon Bernier, a project leader with Cirque du Soleil in Montreal. As it is, staff involved with Cirque du Soleil's social programs have difficulty keeping up with their workload. But Bernier promises that Circo del Mundo will coach other motivated groups interested in setting up their own version of the program.

And then more kids will be able to join the circus after running away from home and onto the streets.

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ACIC'S MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS / LES MEMBRES DU CACI



Canada World Youth / Jeunesse Canada Monde
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
Canadian Co-operative Association
Canadian Crossroads International / Carrefour Canadien International
Canadian Red Cross
CAUSE Canada
Centre for International Studies (UCCB)
Clean Nova Scotia
Coady International Institute
College of the North Atlantic—International Programs Office
Cooper Institute
CUSO
Ecology Action Centre
EDGE
Extension Community Development Cooperative
Falls Brook Centre
GPI Atlantic
International Development Branch — NCCB
International Family Farm Exchange
Lester Pearson International (Dalhousie University)

Médecins Sans Frontières—Atlantique
Mennonite Central Committee, Maritimes
MI International, Marine Institute
Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Co-operatives
Nova Scotia Community College
Nova Scotia Environmental Network
Nova Scotia Gambia Association
Oxfam Canada
PEI Eco-Net
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Dioceses Fredericton)
Regional Co-operative Development Centre
Society for Corporate Environment and Social Responsibility
Solidarité Acadie-Haiti
Tatamagouche Centre
The United Church of Canada Maritime Conference
WUSC
YMCA Canada East—Management Resource Centre
YMCA Halifax-Dartmouth
YMCA Fredericton

Democracy or Development Which Comes First?

By Paul Weinberg

Canadians are helping build 'good governance' in the Developing World. But is democracy necessary for development, or is it the other way round?

You know you've hit a sore spot when a government minister attacks your research. In the case of Canadian David MacDonald, the political nerve in question ran not through Canada's Liberal Party but rather South Africa's African National Congress.

The verbal fireworks started last summer after MacDonald, a geography professor at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, released with a U.S. colleague a study showing 10 million South Africans have had their water cut off by local municipalities due to nonpayment of bills.

"People [in South Africa] are making choices between food, school and clothes, and whether or not to pay their water and electricity," says MacDonald.

The findings of the Municipal Services Project, an initiative MacDonald co-directs through the Southern African Research Centre at Queens, highlighted the schism between the governing ANC's original social justice goals and its apparent embrace of free market policies.

But Ronnie Kasrils, South Africa's Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, denied that the water cut-off was widespread. Kasrils said that North American researchers were encouraging citizens to "break taps and meters" to access water illegally.

No doubt to the chagrin of the government there, South Africa is a nation where such shortfalls in public services can be challenged in the courts. It is fitting that research spearheaded by a Canadian could be used in a case against South African water policy, as that country's bill of rights is modeled on the Canadian Charter of Rights.

In the post-apartheid era, Canadians have been at the forefront of strengthening democracy and 'governance' structures in South Africa, both at the top through training judges in the new bill of rights, and at the grassroots level by providing tools for citizen participation.

Robin Sully, director of international development programs at the Canadian Bar Association, says that Canada's constitutional democracy has a lot to offer the rest of the world. And she adds that Canadians are viewed differently than other western countries, the U.S. in particular. "Canada does not carry a lot of historical baggage."

But are democracy, human rights and the absence of corruption necessary ingredients for development and poverty reduction? Studies by the World Bank, says Sully, demonstrate a strong connection between governance and the rule of law on the one hand and poverty reduction on the other. She is adamant on this point. "Not a maybe. It is absolutely critical. In fact, it is the most critical."

The Canadian International Development Agency (the government's foreign aid wing), has promoted 'non-governmental organizations' as essential tools for building citizen participation in developing countries, says Gerry Barr, president of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation. "You can do extraordinary and innovative things through the support of civil society organizations."

Yet South Africa, which has one of the best constitutions in the world, an established rule of law, and a politically astute and active populace, still has poverty and high unemployment. However, South Africa is in better economic shape than other sub-Saharan countries on the continent.

So what comes first, democracy or development? Louis Lefebvre, a professor emeritus in economics at York and former advisor to the Papandreou government in Greece, says there no simple answer to this 'chicken and egg' conundrum.

Lefebvre points to Cuba where significant advances in basic nutrition, education and health have occurred in a country that lacks 'Western' ideals of democracy, namely freedom of speech and broad political choice. "In contrast, there is India where all of these freedoms exist but a large part of the population continues to live at or below minimum subsistence."

(continued on page 12)

MEMBER PROFILE

Prince Edward Island Eco-Net de l'Ile-du-Prince-Édouard

The Prince Edward Island Eco-Net de l'Ile-du-Prince-Edouard (Eco-Net) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental network of groups on Prince Edward Island who care about the environment. The organization was originally formed in 1991 and was formally incorporated as a co-operative in 2000. The PEIEN is non-advocacy and thus does not take stands on particular issues. Instead, it assists member groups with the work they do through the sharing of information and provision of administrative and technical support.

The Eco-Net is affiliated with 11 other Environmental Networks: a Network in each province, one in the Northern Territories, and a network of groups with a national focus such as the Sierra Club of Canada. All come together under the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) umbrella, based in Ottawa, which coordinates the activities of 16 national Caucuses. These caucuses address specific environmental concerns and issues, and caucus members participate at various meetings and consultations in Canada and around the world.

The Eco-Net has an office in Charlottetown (the smallest in the CEN). The office produces a quarterly newsletter, *The Networker*, as well as a weekly environmental news summary of local, national and international events. The office of the Eco-Net also acts as a point of access for federal, provincial and community programs as well as informing member organizations of government and other initiatives through mail-outs and the newsletter. In addition, the staff often identify persons who are active and informed with respect to particular issues, so that the most effective people can be sent to provide an environmental perspective at government and industry consultations.

Numerous environmental projects operate from the Richmond Street location, including the PEI Climate Change Hub, which has been co-hosted by the Eco-Net since May 2002. It boasts a resource library of print, CD as well as video material available to the general public.

Susan Hawkins is the coordinator of the Eco-Net (part-time) and is also co-ordinator of the PEI Climate Change Hub as well as several other projects. She is an environmental educator and Founder and Director of Rescue Mission/ Mission Terre Canada.

The Prince Edward Island Eco-Net de l'Ile-du-Prince-Edouard, is located at 126 Richmond St. Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 1H9

Tel: (902) 566-4170 Fax: (902) 566-4037

Email: network@isn.net

URL: <http://www.isn.net/~network>

The PEI Eco-Net office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Coordinator
Susan Hawkins
hard at work

A Marriage in Ikun

Story by Jessica Dubelaar

I had to rush out the office early last Friday. We had a long journey ahead of us. We were headed to the village of Ikun for the traditional marriage of a friend's sister. The first leg of the journey was a pleasantly air conditioned ride of a couple of hours. But as we neared our final destination the travelling grew more and more difficult. After some time on a very good highway, we branched off onto a dirt road that quickly degenerated into bumps and holes. After slowly and bumpily passing through a few villages we reached our next obstacle, the river. After some unsuccessful negotiations, we paid a very high price to cross the river in a rickety wooden boat that may or not of had a leak since there was a fair amount of water in the bottom. Once we reached the other side we began the final leg of our journey. I, along with the bride, many trunks, a sewing machine, another man, the driver and various other items were loaded into the car. I shared the front passenger seat with the bride-to-be and held on tightly the door handle in order to keep it from swinging open since it wouldn't stay closed on its own. We pushed our way through a path that was at times only wide enough for a motorbike to pass through comfortably. I was sitting by the window and quickly became covered in grass, twigs and insects. I was assured that I was very lucky to be travelling to Ikun at this time of the year, just a month and a half before the route we were driving along was a creek.

When we finally arrived in Ikun and reached the family's maternal home we found a large-scale catering operation underway. The cooking would continue well into the next day in order to feed the numerous guests that would attend the marriage. Large quantities of Afang leaves were being chopped for the soup, crayfish were being ground, and goat meat was being diced. At least four fires were constantly burning with giant cauldrons on top of them. It was mostly younger women preparing the food, the old women, along with the old men occupied themselves with consuming the locally distilled illicit gin known as kai kai. I sampled some kai kai and then set out to explore the village before the evening set in when the place would be covered in darkness.

A sizeable group of children had gathered to watch and giggle at the white person from a distance. Each time I

looked in their direction the group would embarrassedly scatter. This same group of at least twenty children seemed to follow me everywhere I went and eventually they became bold enough to make faces at me, wave, and occasionally push an unsuspecting friend in my direction and run away laughing.

On the day of the wedding the cooking continued and by the afternoon we started to prepare for the ceremony. I was privileged enough to be one of the "uniforms" who escorted the bride to the ceremony. We all wore different styles of dresses made from the same cloth and lead the procession of women to the ceremony by dancing through the village. The bride was wearing what were maybe a hundred strings of beads around her waist and had brass coils wrapped around her legs. She was decorated with white chalk and her hair had been styled in an up-do with beads and a peacock feather. She carried a staff and was fanned by a maiden from the village.

When we arrived at her paternal home where the ceremony would take place we waited outside while the various items that had been requested as a part of her bride price were presented to her family and evaluated. When her family was satisfied, we made our way into the compound. Before entering, the bride had to turn back. It was then up to the husband and his family to come outside the compound so the couple could then enter together. Finally, the two of them entered and the speeches began. Special dishes prepared by the bride were presented to the husband's family as examples of the fine cooking he would now be enjoying. The couple occasionally were called on to dance, food and minerals were distributed to the guests, and the festivities began to wind down. We went to bed early that night in order to recuperate from the day's activities and to prepare ourselves for the long journey back to Calabar.

We left on motorbikes before dawn the next morning; I could barely make out the silhouettes of the coconut palms as we made our way to the river. With the wind in my hair and the dawn slowly breaking, I said goodbye to Ikun and my first village experience in Nigeria.

Jessica Dubelaar is a participant in CIDA's International Youth Internship Program. She is currently completing the overseas component of her internship working with ACIC's partner, NGOCE (NGO Coalition for the Environment), in Calabar, Nigeria.



Jessica Dubelaar

CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION BEGINS NEWFOUNDLAND TO PHILIPPINES CONNECTION

Federation to Federation Connection a first Three members of the board of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operatives - Gail Pike, Ken Kavanagh, and Keith Sheppard - were in the Philippines recently as part of a Co-op Connection with VICTO, Region 8, a credit union federation.

Co-op Connections is a program of the Canadian Co-operative Association. The three were accompanied to the Philippines by Maureen MacLean, member engagement co-ordinator, Atlantic Region, Canadian Co-operative Association.

Gail Pike, from Labrador City, said the time spent with the people was "a real eye-opener. I enjoyed every minute of it. Both she and Keith Sheppard were moved to tears by the accolades attributed to Canadians at a church ceremony in Lamac. This same church is being renovated with monies received from a Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League group in a Fredericton parish, an initiative sparked by an earlier Co-op Connection between Capital Credit Union and Holy Child Multipurpose Co-op in Lamac.

The parish priest at the ceremony in Lamac, remarked that Canadians are "God 's gifts to the Philippines". Sheppard said it made him really

proud to be a Canadian, and to recognize that co-operatives are making such a difference in the lives of Filipinos.

Both remarked that the Connection trip was a life-changing experience, one which made them recognize the power of co-operatives as grassroots organizations changing the face of poverty. "The people are absolutely wonderful, their greatest resource," adds Pike.

VICTO, Region 8 representatives will visit Newfoundland, hopefully around annual meeting time in September, says Pike. Planning is beginning for this visit.



Keith Sheppard meets school children and their teacher in the Philippines

Democracy or Development: Which Comes First?...continued

Many of the problems of good vs. bad governance stem from the existence of corrupt elites in developing countries, says Iris Almeida, director of policy and planning at Rights and Democracy in Montreal, which funds democracy projects around the world. "One of the key obstacles to democratic governance in many developing countries is that the local elite often believe that holding political office is the surest and fastest way to amass wealth."

So good governance does not begin and end with a country's governmental and judicial institutions. Ultimately, nations need an informed, empowered population and

civil society organizations to hector and pressure governments to make serious efforts to combat poverty and spread the wealth around.

It may not be straightforward or even polite, as David MacDonald learned in South Africa, but it is democracy.

This article is provided by the *International Development & Environment Article Service (IDEAS)*. IDEAS is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency



**NETCORPS
YOUTH INTERNSHIPS**

**Apply to: marian.white@cuso.ca
For more information: www.cuso.org**

CHILE

Regional Municipal Association

Valparaiso, Chile

Computer System Instructor

Two Netcorps cooperants are required to support the computer area. One of them will work at the Regional Municipal Association in Valparaiso and in the rural area at the Municipality of Petorca ; the other cooperant will work in Catemu and Panquehue , two rural municipalities located in the V Region.

JAMAICA

Jamaica Association on Mental Retardation (JAMR)

Kingston, Jamaica

Information Technologist

To contribute to improving the capacity of the Association to deliver its special education programmes to persons with mental retardation and other development disabilities.

Mel Nathan Institute for Dev. and Social Research

Kingston, Jamaica

Information Technologist

To strengthen the information technology competencies of the staff at the Mel Nathan Institute and contribute to the sustainability of information technology systems.

Jamaica Sustainable Development Network Ltd.

Kingston, Jamaica

Information Technologist

To assist the Jamaica Sustainable Development Network Ltd. in the delivery of its information technology programmes for young people; and to provide assistance to the clients of the agency in the areas of web page development and other information technology support.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NGO Capacity Building - PNG Inc

Port Moresby, PNG

Information and Communication Specialist

The intern will be required to develop and maintain an electric database with printed directories, details of Graduate Diploma Program participants and other information. As well, the intern will be required to develop a website, a newsletter and design, produce and disseminate brochures. A national counterpart should be trained on these details so that the work is sustainable.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

People First Network

Honiara, Solomon Islands

ICT Trainer

With the rapid expansion in PFnet starting in mid 2003, the interns will be needed to ensure that a programme of training and skills transfer is continuous, under direction of the Technical Advisor. The intern will also improve sustainability by working with the Technical Advisor to assess and improve technical systems and procedures, and to provide temporary technical cover when multiple rural access sites are deployed simultaneously. The placement will result in a strengthened core management team for PFnet, and better maintained, more secure and efficient networking systems in place, with staff capacity to monitor and maintain it.

Vois Blong Mere

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Software Trainer / Website Designer

Vois Blong Mere is a relatively new NGO in the Solomon Islands having members and staff with basic knowledge of what the possibilities are for computer software for enhancing communication to women across the country. This placement would allow a knowledgeable person in computer software to increase the level of understanding of computer software for the women working in development in the Solomon Islands. The Intern would be available to offer computer related assistance to other existing NGOs in Honiara with links to VBM. Website development could also be a feature of the placement for VBM.

Call 1 800 676-8411 for further information

These are 6 month placements - travel/medical costs and a living wage paid by CUSO



ACIC's Annual
General Meeting &
Symposium
May 8 & 9, 2004
Debert, Nova Scotia
Debert Hospitality
Centre

L'Assemblée
Générale Annuelle &
Symposium du
CACI
Les 8 & 9 mai, 2004
Debert, Nouvelle-
Écosse
au Centre Debert



We invite you to join us in
Debert next May for ACIC's
Annual General Meeting
& Symposium.

Nous vous invitons à
L'Assemblée Générale Annuelle
& Symposium du CACI
à Debert en mai prochain

Includes:
Workshops and Discussion Panels
Networking opportunities

Incluant:
des Ateliers de Travail et des Discussions de Groupe
Rencontres avec les autres membres du CACI

Tatamagouche Centre Announces 2004 Summer Programs

This summer, Tatamagouche Centre will continue to offer leading edge programs for developing committed, social leadership in the Maritimes. Whether at the foundational or more advanced level, the Centre's programs combine solid skill development with a commitment to social justice. The famous, home-cooked food along with the beauty of the Centre's grounds and water-side setting create a rich learning environment.

A dozen unique and exciting summer programs are offered June through August. These and the other 70 programs offered throughout the year, are described fully in The Centre's 2004 Program Calendar available by contacting the Centre at www.tatacentre.ca or 1-800-218-2220.

The following are some of the programs coming up this summer:

Introduction to Permaculture Principles

June 25-27, Fri. 7 pm – Sun. 1 pm

This weekend course is designed to provide an introduction to the principles and concepts of Permaculture. In this course you will examine land use and community building movements and strategies which work towards the harmonious integration of people, plants, animals, soil and water. Permaculture design examines how these elements interact with one another through the use of sustainable energy and water technology, perennial food gardening systems and local economic development structures. **Leadership: Phil Ferraro**, Director of the Institute for Bioregional studies in P.E.I. and **Trudy Watts**, Program Resource Group. **Cost: \$295**

Peace and Quiet for Social Activists

August 1 – 4, Sun. 7 pm – Wed. 1 pm

This retreat is for social activists who have been longing to experience the gift of peace and quiet. Days will be loosely structured with gatherings in the morning and evening for orientation and community sharing. Simple reflective processes will help us get in touch with the wisdom, deep commitment and emotions in our work for social transformation, to touch the hope that inspires, and to reflect on ways to maintain balance. Afternoons will be free for trips to the beach, hiking,

napping, reading, etc. Participants who wish to share this experience with their life partner or with colleagues are encouraged to do so. **Leadership: Eric Tusz-King**, Outreach, Stewardship & Mission Support with the Maritime Conference, United Church of Canada, is active in social justice work, and **Becky McKenna**, Retreat Program Co-ordinator. **Cost: \$260**

The Tatamagouche Model of Education, Design and Leadership Part I

August 15 – 20, Sun. 7 pm - Fri. 1 pm

Looking for a basic, thorough "training the trainer" program? Tatamagouche Centre has been developing and refining an important experiential, reflective model of adult transformational education for more than 30 years. Its practice forms the foundation for the many programs we offer. This program teaches our model of education through a participatory experience in which participants "learn to do by doing." As we develop a

supportive community, everyone involved becomes both teacher and learner. Offered in both winter and summer, this program is designed for adult educators, community practitioners, church leaders and anyone else who delivers educational programs and workshops or who would like to do so. **Leadership: Tessa Mendel**, Program Resource Group; **Debbie Castle** is an adult educator and organizational effectiveness specialist with a Doctorate in Education. Her purpose is to inspire and reclaim the integrity, safety and equality of human relationships within groups and organizations. Since 1975 she has consulted with over a thousand groups, both in Atlantic Canada and Africa. (Part II, optional, will be offered in 2005) **Cost: \$535**



Campbell House at
Tatamagouche
Centre

Le CCI au Zimbabwe

premièrement publié en 2003 dans le journal du CCI
"Sankofa"

Après des années de colonisation et d'oppression, et une guerre brutale pour obtenir son indépendance, le peuple du Zimbabwe a osé rêver à l'autodétermination. Les habitants ont construit des écoles et planifié pour l'avenir. Pourtant, vingt ans et quelque après l'obtention de leur indépendance, en 1980, les Zimbabwéens continuent de subir la violence, la répression politique et des abus aux droits de la personne. Les difficultés économiques et une pandémie de sida ont contribué à affaiblir davantage le pays.

Depuis plusieurs années, Carrefour canadien international envoie des volontaires au Zimbabwe. En 2002, cinq volontaires ont été placés dans les projets ou programmes suivants : YMCA, SOS Children's Village, Simukai Street Youth Programme, Jiros Jiri Association for disabled youth et Masiye Camp.

Durant leur stage, les volontaires de CCI ont vu le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté d'un pays qui, jadis, était riche en ressources et en espoir. Parce que les participants et participantes au programme habitent dans des familles locales, ils vivent la situation du même point de vue que les habitants eux-mêmes.

Comment le pays en est-il arrivé là?

Le Zimbabwe est devenu indépendant en avril 1980 lorsque les ententes de la Lancaster House et la Grande-Bretagne ont mis fin à 15 ans d'une indépendance qui avait été déclarée unilatéralement par le gouvernement de la Rhodésie, minoritairement blanc, et un conflit armé qui l'accompagnait. La Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANUPF), dirigée par Robert Mugabe, est au pouvoir depuis ce temps-là. Une des principales causes du conflit, alors et maintenant, est la question des terres agricoles et de qui y a accès. La majorité des fermes commerciales à grande distribution et produisant des produits tels que le tabac, le coton et la canne à sucre, est la propriété de la minorité blanche, alors que la majorité de la population vit sur des terres agricoles moins productives. La revendication de la réforme agraire - la redistribution des terres aux pauvres - était l'une des raisons principales pour laquelle la population a pris les armes dans les années 1970. Cette réforme était d'ailleurs une promesse importante faite par Mugabe ans d'indépendance, cette promesse reste toujours non remplie pour la majeure partie. Les vétérans de la guerre d'indépendance, frustrés par la lenteur de la réforme agraire, ont saisi quelques fermes détenues par des propriétaires blancs. De nombreux fermiers commerciaux blancs refusent encore de céder une

part de leurs terres. Encore une fois, les désespérés pensent à reprendre les armes pour avoir enfin accès aux terres agricoles, ce qu'on leur refuse depuis tant d'années. Comme son mandat s'achevait, Mugabe a fait quelques efforts pour la réforme agraire. Pour forcer les choses, il a passé une loi qui empêche les fermiers de planter des semis. Ceci a provoqué une pénurie d'aliments. Une sécheresse de trois ans est venue aggraver la situation. Également, une crise liée au change de devise, causée en partie par le manque d'exportations du secteur agricole, a provoqué la pénurie de carburant. La Carrefouriste Hali Bauld a été placée avec le YMCA à Harare, du mois d'octobre jusqu'au mois d'avril de cette année. Coureuse de fond aguerrie, Hali a vu le changement radical du style de vie des Zimbabwéens durant son stage. Elle écrit depuis Harare : « Lorsque je suis arrivée au Zimbabwe, j'ai remarqué comment les gens se mettaient en marche tôt le matin... marchaient dès 5 heures pour se rendre au travail... fumée de diesel dans l'air. » Lors de ses déplacements quotidiens, des enfants l'accompagnaient durant les quatre derniers kilomètres. Au fil du temps et à mesure que la sécheresse empirait, les enfants ont cessé de courir. Les enseignants, à l'école, disaient que les enfants étaient trop affamés pour venir à l'école. Dans le cadre de son stage, elle a voyagé dans une région rurale pour faire une évaluation du programme VIH/SIDA. À son retour à Harare, elle a remarqué une baisse considérable de la fumée de diesel durant ses déplacements. « Je suis passée par un distributeur de carburant où j'ai vu une longue file d'attente que j'ai mesurée - près d'un kilomètre de longueur. J'ai salué des gens dans leur voiture, qui étaient blasés; certains dormaient encore car ils avaient passé la nuit à attendre en ligne. De là, ils vont aller se mettre en ligne à l'épicerie pour acheter du pain, du sucre, de l'huile de cuisson, du sel... mais pas de « mealy meal » (blé réduit en poudre et qui constitue l'aliment de base) parce qu'il n'y en a pas. La vie des gens a changé dramatiquement, à partir de courir pour se rendre au travail jusqu'à attendre en file toute la journée pour acheter quelques rares produits de base qui n'arriveront jamais. La représentante de pays, Margaret Vera, dit que la situation est extrêmement difficile mais que les gens ne veulent plus de violence; ils en ont assez vu. Des membres de groupes d'opposition, y compris la Confédération internationale des syndicats libres, ont appelé le peuple à faire une grève générale de deux jours, les 18 et 19 mars, 2003. Quelque quatre cents personnes ont été arrêtées par le gouvernement. Le syndicat a condamné la répression des activistes de la démocratie ainsi que les actes de torture et d'intimidation perpétrés contre eux. Les violations des droits de la personne ont été ajoutées à la liste de revendications contre le gouvernement.

Joan Campbell est la directrice du bureau régional de l'Atlantique. Elle travaille dans le secteur du développement international depuis 30 ans, a souvent voyagé en Afrique et a vécu en Afrique de l'Ouest et au Nicaragua.

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